## MINUTES ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE TECRO-AIT SANITARY/PHYTOSANITARY AND AGRICULTURAL STANDARDS WORKING GROUP CONSULTATIONS

March 20-21, 2002

Taipei, Taiwan

## PHYTOSANITARY ISSUES

Detector dogs training program-TECRO Issue TECRO expressed its appreciation to AIT for offering assistance in setting up detector dog training, and said that a team of three quarantine officers will be leaving for Orlando training center for a ten week training from March 25, 2002. TECRO also expressed its desire to establish a long term training program and requested continuous training in the United States for three to four years to increase the number of detector dog teams. TECRO will make a proposal to AIT. AIT agreed to have further discussion with the APHIS representatives responsible for the detector dog program and offered to arrange discussions on possible activities such as a program for training future trainers of dog handlers.

<u>U.S. Phytosanitary Certificates-AIT Export Issue</u> AIT provided information on the current status of U.S. Export Certificates in the United States.

APHIS plans to employ a new system (PCIT) to track certificates. There will be a new electronically generated certificate in place starting this year. The physical appearance of these export certificates will be slightly different from the current preprinted documents.

There may be ports in the future where old forms are used. Current testing of the new system is being done domestically but will be utilized for international trade. TECRO would like more detailed information on how the new system will operate and how security issues will be addressed and requested to be notified in advance when the new system is implemented.

AIT invited Taiwan to participate in a 30 day export certificate audit. These audits are part of an ongoing internal effort to maintain the integrity of the APHIS export certification program.

Details of such an audit will need to be developed. TECRO will identify which port(s) or branch office would be the best candidate for participation in such an audit. Upon establishing the participating location, the most appropriate time period can be identified.

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fh yy Sphagnum moss to be used with orchids imported from Taiwan-TECRO Export

Issue AIT expressed appreciation to TECRO for the opportunity to tour a representative orchid producer.

TECRO expressed concern that this issue was unresolved since 1994 and that the media posed no additional risks. AIT expressed some risk concerns based on observations made during the site visit.

Both sides expressed confidence in the risk mitigation plan that was proposed, but realized that operational implementation must be designed to mitigate any remaining risk concerns by AIT.

AIT will fully articulate their risk concerns within the next four weeks. AIT will then dispatch a team of scientific and regulatory specialists to Taiwan to visit orchid facilities. The team's objectives will be to make recommendations that will allow TECRO to design an operational workplan that addresses outstanding risk concerns.

AIT agreed to take follow up action on a high priority basis to meet its technical and administrative requirements relative to the import of Taiwan orchids with Sphagnum moss into the United States.

<u>Carrots-AIT Export Issue</u> TECRO requested new information on this issue relating to previously submitted data from California. The Plant Quarantine Advisory Committee noted 4 points requiring clarification:

- a. How were the sites chosen?
- b. What was the individual sample size?
- c. What other hosts were sampled?
- d. What are the import requirements for California carrots to other trading partners?

TECRO requested clarification of reports of Burrowing Nematode (BN) in Oregon and other states shown on Table 2. AIT will address these issues within a few weeks.

AIT expressed concern that this issue has not been resolved since 1996 and stated that the information provided should qualify California as a pest free area for Burrowing Nematode under international standards.

TECRO responded that once the new information is provided, it will be submitted to the Plant Quarantine Advisory Committee to review and make decision.

Citrus (wentan and pai pummelo) Export to the U.S.-TECRO Export Issue TECRO stated that currently it is interested in exporting Citrus grandis (wentan and pai pummelo) to the U.S. TECRO provided information regarding gummosis, greening bacterium, and Satsuma dwarf virus of citrus as requested by AIT. TECRO also provided information on citrus canker on wentan and pai pummelo, and requested expeditious review for wentan and pai pummelo.

AIT responded that it will review and incorporate the information into the pest risk analysis as appropriate. AIT stated that the PRA for Taiwan citrus is currently being handled as a priority by AIT.

Jb K yh, yy TECRO will provide mitigation measures for black spot and citrus canker.

Non-Quarantine Pests-TECRO Import Issue AIT raised concerns over regulatory actions taken on U.S. products by BAPHIQ officials for non-quarantine pests such as European red mite and *Thrips tabaci*. TECRO agreed to look into this matter. AIT requested that at this time TECRO take action only on quarantine pests as defined by the IPPC. TECRO responded that under its legal framework, TECRO will take action pursuant to relevant codes.

TECRO stated that it has intercepted pests of quarantine concern, and appropriate regulatory action shall be taken when identification of pests is difficult.

Both sides acknowledge that regulatory actions are necessary when identification to species or genus is not possible and some members of that higher taxon level (genus or family) may be quarantine pests.

Fresh apples from the States-TECRO Import Issue TECRO requested that the invitation for annual inspection of U.S. apple orchards should be received two months prior to export.

TECRO requested an invitation for the year 2002 inspection tour of apple orchards in Washington, Oregon, and California. AIT will provide a letter of invitation prior to June as requested by TECRO.

Issues Associated with Taiwan's Requirements Regarding Exotic Fruit Fly Eradication Program-AIT Export Issue TECRO requested that AIT provide documents supplied to New Zealand that resulted in their acceptance of the AIT fruit fly regulated area.

AIT will supply these documents within three weeks and request that TECRO consider removing the 20 Km buffer zone around areas regulated for exotic fruit flies. TECRO responded that it will review the matter.

AIT requested clarification on TECRO's requirements regarding fruit fly host material originating in or transiting through a fruit fly regulated area.

TECRO confirmed that for Medfly outbreaks all fruits and vegetables are prohibited from within the regulated area. However, BAPHIQ is compiling a list of Medfly hosts and intends to regulate only Medfly host material once the list is complete.

Fresh litchi export to US-TECRO Export Issue TECRO expressed its concern regarding litchi rejected by the U.S. AIT explained why fumigation was not an option for the quarantine pests in the family, Coccidae, intercepted on shipments of litchi.

TECRO agreed to work with litchi producers to provide awareness of the problem of mealy bugs and soft scales.

Montana Tablestock and Seed Potatoes-AIT Export Issue requested for Montana table-stock and seed potatoes.

Market access was

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AIT provided TECRO with previously requested information and survey data demonstrating absence of various pests and diseases.

- 3 copies of Montana certified seed potato directory
- 2 copies of Seed Potato Certification Rules for the 2001 crop
- Relevant Information on Pests of concern to Taiwan (Attachment A-L)

TECRO will give the same consideration to Montana potatoes as was given to other states.

Alaska Seed Potato Soil Tolerance-AIT Export Issue AIT requested that a soil tolerance be established for seed potatoes.

TECRO stated that soil from all countries is highly regulated and presents an unacceptable level of risk.

AIT accepts TECRO's position on soil.

Transshipment-AIT Export Issue AIT expressed concern over amended transit safeguarding regulations affecting the transshipment of U.S. cherries through Canada. These regulations require plants and plant products be safeguarded in transit.

TECRO responded that some late season U.S. cherry transshipments through Canada were compliant with the amended regulations.

AIT will send a letter requesting TECRO to address this issue and respond prior to June 2002 (the cherry shipping season).

AIT requests that TECRO evaluate industry practices that provide equivalent safeguarding measures.

Fresh longan export to US -TECRO Export Issue TECRO requested market access for longan fruit. TECRO provided a pest list to initiate this market access request. AIT will send a letter identifying additional information needed.

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